

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00  
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 FEA-01 ACDA-07  
AGRE-00 CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 H-01 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSF-01  
OES-06 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SS-15 SAL-01 /158 W  
----- 130162 /72-60

O R 141905Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2579  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2864  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12303

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC, UR, RO, BU, SP, GE, PL, PO, NO, FO, IC, SW, EFIS  
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, DECEMBER 13, 1976:  
DISCUSSION OF FISHERIES ISSUES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 12174 (NOTAL), (B) EC BRUSSELS 12137 (NOTAL),  
(C) EC BRUSSELS 12152 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR DECEMBER 13 COUNCIL SESSION, THE  
EC FOREIGN MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA FOR NEAR-  
TERM REGULATION OF THIRD COUNTRY FISHING IN EXPANDED EC  
WATERS AFTER JANUARY 1, 1977. THE FORMULA ALLOWS A THREE  
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MONTH GRACE PERIOD TO THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT SIGNI-

FIED THEIR INTENTION OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EC BUT SHARPLY REDUCES THEIR CATCH DURING THAT PERIOD. THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE, HOWEVER, IN THE FACE OF BRITISH AND IRISH OBJECTIONS, TO DECIDE ON AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME AND HAVE ASKED THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP REVISED PROPOSALS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 20 OR 21. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD COUNTRY FISHING. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION, COUNCIL, AND PERMDEL SOURCES, THE MINISTERS REACHED A TOUGHER THAN EXPECTED DECISION ON THIRD COUNTRY FISHING RIGHTS IN EC WATERS AFTER MEMBER STATES EXTEND THEIR FISHING ZONES TO 200 MILES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1. BULGARIA AND ROMANIA, WHO ARE NOT NEAFC SIGNATORIES AND WHO HAVE NO TRADITIONAL RIGHTS IN EXPANDED EC WATERS, ARE TO BE EXCLUDED COMPLETELY AS OF THAT DATE. THE SOVIET UNION, SPAIN, THE GDR, POLAND, SWEDEN, FINLAND AND PORTUGAL ARE TO HAVE THEIR CATCHES SHARPLY REDUCED FOR A THREE-MONTH PERIOD. UNTIL MARCH 31, CATCHES WILL BE LIMITED TO EACH COUNTRY'S TEN-YEAR AVERAGE TAKE (1965-1974) IN EC WATERS LESS 15 PERCENT (OR MORE, DEPENDING ON SPECIES). THOSE COUNTRIES IN THIS GROUP NOT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE "RECIPROCAL" AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC WILL BE EXCLUDED COMPLETELY FROM COMMUNITY WATERS AS OF APRIL 1. COUNCIL AND COMMISSION SOURCES TELL US THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WAS RELUCTANT TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH RESTRICTIVE MEASURES BUT WAS PREVAILED UPON BY THE MAJORITY TO DO SO.

3. THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT COUNTRIES NOW NEGOTIATING WITH THE EC (E.G., US, ICELAND, NORWAY, FAEROE ISLANDS) SHOULD BE OFFERED UP TO ONE-YEAR RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE SOME REDUCTION IN CATCH TOTALS OF THESE COUNTRIES IN EC WATERS.

4. UK FOREIGN SECRETWRY CROSLAND AND IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD BOTH LAUDED THE DECISION AS FAVORABLE, STRESSING THAT THE REDUCTION OF THIRD COUNTRY CATCHES WILL ADD TO THE EC'S TOTAL AVAILABLE CATCH. CROSLAND STRESSED TO THE PRESS THAT RECIPROCITY  
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WOULD BE A KEY ELEMENT OF ANY NEW AGREEMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE SOVIETS, GOING SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A ONE-FOR-ONE EXCHANGE ON CATCH TONNAGE. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESS, EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH LATER CONTESTED CROSLAND'S STATEMENTS, ASSERTING THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO CATCH TOTALS WHICH MIGHT BE OFFERED U(#)  
SCIPROCAL

AGREEMENTS. THE PRESS WAS QUICK TO RAISE WITH GDUNDELACH THE POSSIBILITY THAT ICELAND MIGHT SEIZE ON CROSLAND'S DEFINITION OF RECIPROCITY TO HARDEN ITS OWN POSITION DURING CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC, AS THE ICELANDIC TAKE IN EC WATERS AMOUNTS TO ONLY 30,000 TONS PER ANNUM.

5. CROSLAND TOLD THE PRESS THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION DURING THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION'S CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND, THE FAEROE ISLANDS, OR NORWAY. HE MENTIONED, WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT POLAND HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH THE EC ABOUT CONSERVATION BUT NOT NECESSARILY TO NEGOTIATE.

6. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED CONTINUATION IN FORCE OF EXISTING ITALIAN AGREEMENTS WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND SENEGAL AND OF A FRENCH AGREEMENT WITH GUINEA-BISSAU ON A TRANSITIONAL BASIS.

7. INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME. CROSLAND AND FITZGERALD SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES, THEIR OPPOSITION WAS BASED UPON THE INADEQUACY OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED QUOTAS FOR THE UK AND IRELAND AND UPON THE INSUFFICIENCY OF CONSERVATION MEASURES BASED SOLELY UPON QUOTAS. CROSLAND TOLD THE PRESS THAT OTHER GROUNDS FOR UK OBJECTION INCLUDED FAILURE OF THE PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE FOR COASTAL BELTS OR TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE NORTHERN UK. IN HIS TALKS WITH REPORTERS, FITZGERALD SAID THAT THE GOI WAS DISSATISFIED WITH QUOTAS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT COASTAL BELTS

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REMAIN AN IRISH PRECONDITION TO AGREEMENT ON THE INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME.

8. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND COMMISSION SOURCES, (PROTECT), GENSCHER SUGGESTED PRECISE CATCH FIGURES WHICH WOULD PERMIT MEMBER STATES WITH COASTAL FISHING PROBLEMS TO INCREASE THEIR CATCHES NEXT YEAR AND TO PROTECT COASTAL WATER RESOURCES. THESE SOURCES SAY THAT FITZGERALD AND CROSLAND FOUND GENSCHER'S PROPOSAL INTERESTING BUT NOT SUFFICIENT TO ASSURE PROTECTION OF THEIR DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES. FITZGERALD NOTED THAT, WHILE THE IRISH FLEET HAS LITTLE DEEP SEA CAPACITY AND IS BOUND TO THE IRISH COAST, OTHER MEMBER STATE FLEETS DO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO FISH IN IRISH WATERS. HE SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED LIMITING VESSEL SIZE AND IMPOSING

RESTRICTIONS ON EQUIPMENT, INSTEAD OF RELYING ON QUOTAS ALONE AS CONSERVATION MEASURES. OUR SOURCES SAY GUNDELACH AGREED TO REVISE THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS, TAKING UK AND IRISH VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. THE COMMISSION IS TO TAKE THE MATTER UP DECEMBER 15 AND SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS TO COREPER THIS WEEK. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS THEM AT A SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 20 OR 21.

9. UK MINISTER OF STATE DAVID OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THERE SEEMED FINALLY TO HAVE BEEN RECOGNITION THAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS ARE UNFAIR IN VIEW OF THE UK/IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO AN ENLARGED EC FISHING ZONE. THE SAID THERE WAS NOW A POSSIBILITY, THOUGH NOT A PROBABILITY, OF AGREEMENT ON AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME NEXT WEEK, IN VIEW OF EVIDENCE OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE COMMISSION'S POSITION. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BRITISH HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY WANT GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE PROBLEMS OF COASTAL REGIONS IN THE NEW INTERIM PROPOSALS. HE SUGGESTED THAT EXCLUSIVE COASTAL BELTS AS SUCH MIGHT NOT BE MENTIONED IN THE REVISED PROPOSALS BUT THAT THE CONCEPT MIGHT NEVERTHELESS PROVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE IF DRESSED UP AS "CONSERVATION ZONES."

10. NEXT STEPS. BOTH CROSLAND AND FITZGERALD INDICATED TO THE PRESS THAT, IF NEXT WEEK'S MEETING FAILS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PRODUCE A DECISION ON AN INTERIM INTERNAL REGIME, THEIR GOVERNMENTS INTEND TO UNILATERALLY IMPOSE NON-DISCRIMINATORY CONSERVATION REGIMES. DURING THEIR OCTOBER 30 MEETING IN THE HAGUE, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED THAT SUCH MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN ON AN INTERIM BASIS, PENDING A DECISION ON COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION AND OTHER MEMBER STATES.

11. COASTAL BELTS AND CFP REVISION. DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, CROSLAND SET THE TONE FOR DISCUSSIONS DURING THE COMMISSING MONTHS OF COMMON FISHERIES POLICY REVISION, PREDICTING A "LONG, VERY BITTER, AND VERY ARDUOUS" STRUGGLE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT OF THE COASTAL BELTS ISSUE. HINTON

NOTE BY OC/T: APPARENT OMISSION, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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